

Town of Winifred, Incorporated
Minutes
April 10, 2025
Town Council Meeting
7:00 p.m. at Community Center

The meeting of the Winifred Town Council was called to order by Mayor Shirley Dyer, April 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call was called., Mayor Shirley Dyer, Council Person Rick Baker, Council Person Kristin Carlstrom, Council Person Cody Isom, Council Person Barry Ehlert, absent, Town Clerk Cheri Kjersem, Treasurer Krista Ness. Guests present were Kurt Thomson, Dan Tungesvick, Mike Vault.

Agenda was motioned for approval by Cody Isom, Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Minutes from the council meeting on March 11, 2025 were presented. Amended minutes for February 11, 2025 with updated claim numbers were presented for approval. Rick Baker made a motion to accept both minutes for March 11 and February 11 amended. Kristin Carlstrom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The monthly bills were presented. Rick Baker made a motion to accept the bills, Kristen Carlstrom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Bills approved were claim number 2715/Aqua Tech, 2717/Fergus Electric, 2718/Republic Services, 2719/Energy Labs, 2720/Town of Winifred, 2721/Triangle, 2722/Northwest Energy, 2723/Central Lock and Key, 2728/Quill, 2726/Ehlert Bros, 2724/Winifred Grocery, 2725/CHS, 2729/VISA, 2727/Tractor & Equipment, 2730/Stahly Engineering, 2731/Stahly Engineering

The Bank Reconciliation for February was presented. Cody Isom made a motion to accept the February bank reconciliation, Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Financial reports for the Pool, Library, Museum, Airport, and Cemetery were reviewed. Rick Baker motioned to approve the reports; Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Investments: STIP made \$7.46 interest in February for a balance of \$2,172.51. Ameriprise made \$1,701.50 interest in February for a balance of \$538,896.32.

Correspondence was read.

Citizen Comment Opportunity:

Unfinished Business:

Technology Updates: Dan Tungsvich was present to go over the final estimates for the Tech updates Norm has asked for at the Community Center, Office, Library, and Museum.

Dan presented some quotes; Library Quote was \$5,151.04. Community Center, Office, Museum quote was \$31,340.00, Outside display screen \$16,515.00.

Dan went over all the items on the quotes with the council.

The router will remain downstairs, there will be a false wall built around the electrical equipment and router.

Triangle has completed their work moving the internet cables, the extra labor cost from Triangle will be included on Dan's total. The Triangle bill will actually be \$10 less a month going forward.

After much discussion between Dan and the council. Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to accept the donated funds from Norm Asbjornson through the Central Montana Foundation, and to add one more large screen downstairs to the project. Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

The council was presented a quote from Black Mountain Software to buy cloud hosting for \$1000.00 annually to use on the treasurer's laptop also. Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to purchase the cloud hosting, Rick Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Sewer: Kurt Thomson was here to update the council. The sewer is out for bid. Prebid is May 13 at 3:00pm.

Opening bid is May 20 at 1:00pm.

We will have a council meeting Wednesday May 21st at 7:00pm to award the bid.

Other discussion on the sewer; Cody Isom asked Kurt if we will ever discharge into dog creek in the winter when the spray irrigation can't be used. Kurt said no, they have sized it for a discharge to never happen.

It is a full circle pivot spray irrigation that goes all around in 8 or 16 hours. DEQ says it needs to shut off in 25 mph winds.

Streets: Kurt brought another set of plans which are in the office for review.

Shirley said she had a conversation with Norm Asbjornson, she had sent a letter for Norm to get things set up at the Central Montana Foundation for all the street paving project.

There was discussion with the council concerning the Street Resolution. The Resolution is not approving the plans, it is approving acceptance of the project.

Shirley discussed the petition presented to the council a couple years ago to re-gravel the streets of Winifred. But the town didn't have enough funds for a project like that. This is a fully funded project for the streets of Winifred.

There was discussion about street cleaning and sweeping, Kurt didn't think we would need that, but time would answer that question.

Kurt said there is a complete storm water plan which will end up in the north side of the park area.

Load compacity was discussed; there will be 2 -2 inch lifts. Stahly is still waiting on GeoTech.

After much discussion Rick Baker made a motion to sign the Street Resolution 1-2025, Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Stahly and Century Construction will have an open house at the Community Center May 13th from 5:00 to 7:00 PM to discuss the street project with the town. They will have maps of the streets and hope to discuss with the individual land owners, any concerns that apply to their specific questions.

We will send out fliers with the water/sewer bills to inform the town of the upcoming meeting.

Fire Hall: Brandon wasn't here to update.

Employee evaluations: Mayor Dyer did evaluation with Cheri Kjersem and Rick Baker. The Mayor discussed setting up a schedule for raises to just happen automatically. She was going to go on the list serve and see how other towns do that, and get back to the council with more thoughts on it.

The mayor and council discussed advertising for another water/sewer person to train under Rick and get certified in water/sewer operation. This employee would also be helpful when the summer months get busy with pool, mowing etc.

The council decided to post a job opening for this.

New Business:

Pool: It is getting closer to opening the pool and getting lifeguards lined up.

Jeremy Carr still needs to finish the leak problem and concrete work soon.

Most of last year's lifeguards will be returning. The mayor took more applications to give some interested people.

The mayor discussed the need to have two lifeguards on duty at all times, rather than one.

The council discussed this and agreed to hire two lifeguards this year.

It was discussed raising the pool pass/swim lesson from \$100 to \$125. The pool fees have not been raised in many years and it is time to catch that up.

We are still working on getting the funds from HB 355 to pay the leak detection and concrete work at the pool. We will revisit funding for the pool at the next meeting.

Library: The library board had a meeting and moved to hire Melissa Hickey to fill in at the library when Brenda and Amy have to attend meetings.

Airport and Museum Boards: Travis Willson will stay on the museum and airport boards. Rick Baker said he would be willing to go on the airport board since Larry Udelhoven has passed away. Kristin Carlstrom made a motion to approve Rick Baker for the airport board, Cody Isom seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Equipment: Norm Asbjornson bought the tractor from the Larry Udelhoven estate and has donated it to the Town of Winifred to use on the town streets, airport, and stock yards.

Candy Zion contacted the mayor to see what it would cost for Rick to run the tractor for the day at the stockyards for an event in July.

The council discussed the use of the tractor, expenses, insurance etc.

Cody Isom made a motion to charge \$600 a day per 10 hours, Kristin Carlstrom seconded the motion. Motion passed

Candy has asked about using her own operator, the council and mayor decided if she uses her own operator, she has to use a different tractor.

Miscellaneous: Barry Ehlert contacted the mayor and tendered his resignation from the council.

The town will need to advertise for the filling of the position.

The old fire hall is in need of some new siding. Rick said he would get a price on the siding and present it at the next meeting.

There being no further business. Rick Baker moved to adjourn the meeting; Cody Isom seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Shirley Dyer_____

Clerk Cheri Kjersem_____